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Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Colaianni, M.

Atty. Dkt. No.: 04859.00006

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Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to make this application special under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and under the guidelines of M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII).

A Petition to Make Special was filed, and granted, in allowed parent application Serial No. 09/397,018. It is respectfully submitted that the present petition should be granted at least for the same reasons that the petition was granted in the parent application.

Specifically, a pre-examination search was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by James H. Knebel, a registered patent attorney and professional searcher who has a place of business at 4615 Tapestry Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22032-3916. The search was conducted in the following classes and subclasses: 131/290, 292-304, 309, 310, 326, 347, and 352; 432/500; and 435/267. For each of these classes and subclasses, U.S. Patents were searched. The integrity of the search files was verified in the following classes and subclasses: 131/290, 296, 297, 300, 302, and 303; and 432/500.

In addition, an on-line literature search was conducted by Suzanne Elsoffer, a professional searcher who has a place of business at 194 Posnegansett Avenue, Warnick, Rhode Island, 02888.

Sources for the on-line literature search were (1) Chemical Abstracts; (2) AGRICOLA; (3) CABA (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux); and (4) Conference Papers Index.

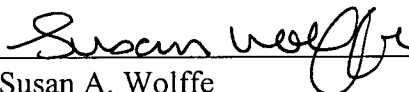
Further, prior art searches were performed by Examiners Ruller and Colaianni in allowed parent application Serial No. 09/397,018. The allowed claims in that application, like the claims in the subject application, are directed to a process of substantially preventing the formation of at least one nitrosamine in tobacco.

A check in the amount of \$130.00 for the Petition fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(2) is attached, as well as a supportive Information Disclosure Statement, including a completed form PTO-1449. If an additional fee is due or if an overpayment of fees is made, please charge or credit any difference to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 as appropriate.

Applicant submits that the present Petition satisfies the guidelines set forth in M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII). Applicant requests that the Petition be granted and the application be examined substantively.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 25, 2000

By: 
Susan A. Wolffe
Registration No. 33,568

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